

CMST 38.001: Forensics Competition

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:10-3:40pm in Cloud 221

Spring 2023, January 31 - May 23

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Description

From the CCSF Catalog:

Development of speaking and argumentation skills through participation in intercollegiate speech and debate tournaments. Course repetition allows mastery of communication skills through the recursive process of researching, writing, practicing, and delivering speeches.

This class prepares students for intercollegiate speaking competitions. You will develop your public speaking and argumentation skills through participation in classroom practice debates with your peers and in intercollegiate speech and debate tournaments with students from other community colleges and universities. Members of the class/team may travel throughout California and the nation to compete in forensics tournaments. Course repetition develops self-confident communication skills through the recursive process of researching, writing, practicing, and delivering speeches. CMST 38 is a 3-unit course that can be repeated 3 times (4 semesters of competitive eligibility total).

Course Outcomes

After successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Deliver speeches with effective nonverbal communication and management of anxiety
2. Craft prepared and unprepared speeches with attention to purpose, form, and context
3. Employ the tools of information competency for critical deliberation and effective advocacy
4. Critique speeches with attention to verbal and nonverbal communication
5. Assess how artistic and analytical works are communicated within a social context

Course meetings and Health advisories

This class is set to meet in-person twice per week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:10-3:40pm in Cloud 221. Class meetings will be primarily dedicated to getting to know each other and the debate topics, learning about the norms of debate, and conducting live practice debates.

Everyone that was able to sign up for the course has submitted a vaccination or a qualified exemption. The CCSF policy still requires masks inside. We will follow all appropriate college-approved COVID safety precautions whenever possible, and update our classroom practices as college policy changes. If you are ill, with COVID or otherwise, please do not come to class.

It is strongly advised that if you need to miss more than one week of class/homework deadline that you contact me.

Communication

The fastest way to communicate with your coaches is through the Canvas inbox - you can send a message to one or both of us. But you can also reach the instructor directly in the following ways:

1. Canvas inbox or Pronto
2. Email: alitzky@ccsf.edu
3. In-person office hours: Tuesdays, 12-2pm in Cloud 208
4. Set up a Zoom meeting

Prerequisites & Advisories

Prior public speaking experience or concurrent enrollment in *CMST 1A, 3, 4 or 20* can aid your *competitive* success, but there are no prerequisites. All CCSF students, including ESL and DSPS students, are strongly encouraged to join the Forensics Team.

Transfer/Credit Information

This course fulfills a major requirement for a [Communication Studies Associate of Arts Transfer Degree](#). CMST 38 also fulfills the CSU GE (Area C1) Arts requirement. I always recommend confirming transferability with your counselor.

Course focus

By enrolling in this section of Forensics, you are enrolling in a debate focused course. Students will learn how to participate in 1 or 2 formats of debate and compete in at least one tournament. For each of the debate events listed below, you will find resources in our Canvas course. We will also provide support for students interested in individual events (IE) competition. IE events include platform speaking (informative, persuasive, speeches to entertain), oral interpretation of literature (poetry, prose, dramatic interpretation, poi), and limited preparation (impromptu and extemporaneous). Students may compete in both debate AND IE events at tournaments if sufficiently prepared.

Debate Formats

1. Individual debate events
 - a. **Lincoln Douglas Debate (NFA-LD)** is an evidence-based format of debate with a single, yearlong topic and cross-examination. Each debate takes about 45 minutes to complete. The resolution for 2022-23 is:

Resolved: the United States federal government should substantially increase restrictions on political campaigns for public office in one or more of the following areas: political communication, campaign spending, interest groups.
 - b. **IPDA** is a limited-preparation format with different topics in each round and includes cross-examination. Each debate takes about 30 minutes to complete. After the topic is selected, both debaters have thirty minutes to prepare a case for their assigned side. IPDA debate often utilizes lay judges to adjudicate the round and emphasizes conversational rhetoric.
2. Team debate events
 - a. **Parliamentary Debate (PARLI)** is a limited-preparation format with different topics in each round between 2 teams of 2 debaters each. Participants have approximately 20 minutes to prepare their arguments on the affirmative or negative sides of a resolution.

Major Course Requirements

The grading in this course might seem unusual and complicated in some ways. In other ways, it's super simple.

The simple part is this: Your grade will depend on the number of assignments you complete. Whatever grade you want to have at the end of the course determines how many assignments you will do throughout the semester. The unusual element is that you have control over how you complete some of these assignments.

There are 4 assignment areas in this course. Each area is described in detail below, and you can find assignment descriptions on our Canvas course.

1. [Debate assignments](#)
 - a. [Practice debates](#)
 - b. [Forensics Tournament Competition](#)
 - c. [Briefs](#)
2. [Forensics Service](#)
3. [Reflection paper](#)
4. [Participation](#)

1. **Debate assignments** are completed by completing practice debates, competitive debates, and writing briefs. To earn an A in this class you need to complete at least 15 debate assignments. You get to choose how you want to complete assignments by completing some combination of practice debates, competition, and brief-writing. Students have to complete at least 2 of each kind of assignment.
 - a. **Practice debates:** All students will develop their abilities to prepare and deliver organized, well-supported, and persuasive speeches in a short period of time. In preparation for competition you are required to complete **at least 4** in-class practice debates. These debates will be in whatever format of debate you are competing in (i.e. Parliamentary). I will attempt to schedule these in advance, but it is your responsibility to ensure you complete both debates by the end of the semester. Each subsequent practice debate can fulfill one additional assignment.
 - b. **Tournament Competition:** Students are required to compete in collegiate forensics tournaments and complete a minimum of **at least 4** competitive debates. See the travel schedule that follows for tournament dates. Each subsequent competitive debate can fulfill one additional assignment.

Spring 2023 Tournament Calendar

Dates:	Tournament/Event:	Location:	Events offered (preliminary rounds):	Competition (C) or Service (S):
Feb 3-5	Talk Hawk	Los Positas, Livermore, CA	LD (Fri-4), IPDA (Fri-4)	C
Feb 17-19	NCFA Champs	DVC, Danville, CA	LD (4), IPDA (4)	C
Sat Feb 18, afternoon	National Online Forensics Virtual tournament	Online	IPDA (4), LD (4)	C
Mar 14-17	CCCFA - CC State champs	Woodland Hills, CA	LD (6), IPDA (6)	C
Mar 24-26	Hornet Cup	CSU Sacramento, Sacramento, CA	LD (6), IPDA (3)	C
Sat Apr 22, afternoon	National Online Forensics Virtual tournament	Online	IPDA (4), LD (4)	C
Tues Apr 24, 10am-2pm	Student Success Network event	Wellness Center Amphitheater, CCSF Ocean campus	Public debate	S
Sat Apr 29	NCFA Spring Fling (Novice only)	Skyline College, San Bruno, CA	Parli (3), LD (3)	C/S
Fri May 12, afternoon	SFSU Intramural	SFSU, San Francisco, CA	Parli (3)	C/S

- c. **Briefs:** In debate terminology, a brief is simply a sheet of paper (two at the most) containing either a single argument or a series of arguments on one issue. You will learn a specific format for briefs and how to produce evidence in a standardized format. Each brief you successfully complete counts as fulfilling one debate assignment, and you must complete **at least 2 briefs** over the course of the semester.
2. **Forensics Service:** Apply what you learned in this course and volunteer 2 hours of your time to support the local forensics or CCSF community. Your service must relate to the learning outcomes for this course. Choose one:
 - a. Participate in a showcase, public debate, or speech event that promotes a CCSF club, organization, program, or cause
 - b. Assist with intramural tournament or other events hosted by CCSF forensics
3. **Reflection paper:** Reflect on your journey as a practicing debater over the course of the semester in a 2-page typed and double-spaced self-reflection paper. Review and reflect on feedback from peers, coaches and judges. Think of the paper as a place for you to: a) dialogue with the criticism you receive from others and review improvements, b) make goals for future performances, and c) consider your development as a competent communicator/debater. The paper is due the last day of instruction.
4. **Participation and attendance:** Attending practice is the best way to prepare for competition. Please arrive on time, be prepared, and participate in team activities.
 - **Participate in debates, speaking drills, and exercises.** We may run skill-building activities during class time, in addition to mini-debates, practice debates, and other speaking exercises.
 - **Arrive to class prepared & Use class time wisely.** Every class period you should bring debate materials, including research, evidence, and notes. Never leave debate materials at home! Expect to practice argumentation in front of the class every week.

Course grading and points

1. Reflection paper	25
2. Forensics Service	25
3. Debate assignments	150

TOTAL

200 POINTS

COURSE & TEAM POLICIES

Adhere to the Squad Travel Rules

If you travel to a forensics tournament you should be familiar with the CCSF Squad Travel Rules. Many of the Squad Rules are College and Education Code Rules. Participation on the Speech and Debate Team, especially at forensics tournaments, requires that you adhere to a specific set of rules. Failure to adhere to the Squad Rules can result in expulsion from the course and the College. If you are uncomfortable or uncertain as to whether or not you can adhere to such rules please talk with the coaches immediately.

Academic Honesty

Any work submitted that is not the product of the student with their name on the work (which would include work taken from any other source and not properly noted or work done by another student) is plagiarized work and will be prosecuted according to College Code. Any sign of falsifying evidence, plagiarizing speeches, etc. will result in a student's immediate removal from the travel roster and failure in the course.

Students with Disabilities

I aim to make this course as accessible as possible to students with disabilities or medical conditions that may affect any aspect of course assignments or participation. Students with disabilities who need accommodations are encouraged to contact me as soon as possible. If you have a disability-related needs that affect travel, competition or require other accommodations, please contact DSPS on campus to obtain the appropriate documentation. Please identify your needs as soon as possible so that reasonable accommodations can be made. Visit Disability Students Programs & Services (DSPS) on the 3rd floor of the Rosenberg Library or at: <http://www.ccsf.edu/NEW/en/student-services/student-counseling/dsps.html> for more information.

CCSF's anti-discrimination policy

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